

MENNONITE HISTORICAL BULLETIN

Published quarterly by the Historical Committee of Mennonite General Conference. Editors: John C. Wenger, Goshen, Indiana, and Edward Yoder, Scottsdale, Pennsylvania. Associate Editors: S. F. Coffman, H. S. Bender, J. B. Smith, C. Z. Mast, J. C. Clemens, Ira D. Landis, H. A. Brunk, and Melvin Gingerich. Publication Office: Scottsdale, Pennsylvania.

Vol. V

SEPTEMBER, 1944

No. 3

Preaching Appointments for Bucks Co. Visitors in Lancaster Co. in 1813

Harold S. Bender

Some years ago the writer found an interesting old manuscript in possession of Mary Caldwell, Route 2 Leetonia, Ohio, which contained notes of a tour of Mennonite congregations in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, by two Mennonite ministers of Bucks county, Pennsylvania. Jacob Nold of the Swamp congregation, and Abraham Wismer of the Deep Run congregation. The notes were written on both sides of a sheet of paper 7½ by 9½ inches in size in the original handwriting of the noted Deacon Martin Mellinger of what is now the Mellinger's congregation about two miles east of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They are here reproduced in the original spelling. Corrected spellings are inserted in brackets by the editor.

Little is known of these two ministers. John C. Wenger (*History of the Mennonites of the Franconia Conference*) gives no information about Jacob Nold except that drawn from the manuscript herewith published. His material on Abraham Wismer (1746-1823) states that he was a minister at the Deep Run congregation in Bucks county. Jacob Nold later removed to the Columbiana-Mahoning counties, Ohio, settlement where he is said to have been the first bishop. A third edition of the famous *Schulordnung* by Christopher Dock was published "for Jacob Nold" at Columbiana Ohio, in 1861, a copy of which is in the Goshen College Library.

Appointments for Services

October, 1813

- 15 Abraham Wismer from Bucks Co. and Jacob Noll [Nold] from the Swamp on a visit in Conestoga [Lancaster Co.]. Preached their first meetings at Henry Martins.
- 17 The ministers there in addition to Henry Martin are Daniel Witmer and John Zimmerman; Deacons, Weber and Samuel Gehman.
- 18 At Becker's, at Hershey's. Ministers, Peter Eby and Michael Martin. Deacon John Hershey.

- 19 At Strasburg. Minister, Henry Breneman, Deacon, Jacob Denlinger.
- 20 At the stone house, at the late John Scheneck. Ministers, Jacob Hochstetler and Sternman. Deacon, Meyer.
- 21 At Martin Mellingers. Ministers, John Buckwalter and John Kreider.
- 22 At Jacob Brubaker's. Ministers, Jacob Brubacker and Jacob Meyer. Deacons, Benjamin Hershey and John Steiner.
- 23 Abraham Wismer went alone to Mennerland to Habecker's.
- 24 At Bachman's at the two meeting houses. Ministers, Henry Neff and Christian Kauffman. Deacon, Neukomet [Newcomer].
- 25 At Samuel Niesly [Nissley].

THE AIM OF MENNO SIMONS

1496-1561

A Model for Mennonite Ministers

I have served you all with this small gift, as I received it from God. I gladly would that I could serve you longer with great and abundant grace, to the praise of the Lord. Therefore have I renounced praise, honor, ease, and forsaken all, and willingly submitted to the pressing cross of my Lord Jesus Christ, which oft times weighs very heavily on my weak flesh. I seek neither gold nor silver (the Lord knows this), but am ready, with faithful Moses, to suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; and I esteem the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, for I know what the Scriptures have promised us, and this is my only joy and desire of my heart, that I may extend the borders of the kingdom of God, publish the truth, reprove sin, teach righteousness, feed the hungry with the word of the Lord, lead the stray sheep into the right path, and win many souls to the Lord through his spirit, power and grace, and so act in my weakness, as he taught me who purchased me, a miserable sinner, with his crimson blood, and gave me this mind, by the gospel of his grace, namely, Jesus Christ, to him be the praise and glory, and the eternal kingdom. Amen.

- 26 At Manheim. Ministers, Jacob Hochstetler, Christian Hershey, Deacon, Jacob Lamelle.
- 27 At Groffs on the way home. Minister, Christian Horst, Deacon, Wenger.
- 28 Noll [Nold] with Peter Eby went over the mountain on a visit and the meeting is appointed on the return trip at Lititz, on the 27th at John Hess's and Christian Risser, Minister. Deacon Burkholder.
- 28 If God wills both of the dear brethren will meet again at H[enry] M[artins], to minister at one more meeting there and then in God's name from there return back home again. How many congregations Peter Eby and Noll [Nold] will serve during this time I

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Progress in the Church Archives

John C. Wenger

The archives of the Mennonite Church are housed in Memorial Library of Goshen College. This arrangement was formally agreed upon by the Mennonite Board of Education and the Historical Committee of Mennonite General Conference in 1940. The Historical Committee placed in one of its archives rooms, located in the northwest corner of the ground floor of the library, steel shelving with a capacity for almost 900 cardboard archives boxes, while another two hundred boxes can be placed on top the shelving.

One of the first tasks necessary was to unpack the vast amount of material which had been placed in the church archives, and to place it in the archives boxes. A label needed to be placed on each box indicating the contents. A classification system had to be devised and a number assigned to each archives box. An accessions book is now being filled out giving the following for each archives box: 1. Serial box number; 2. Source of material; 3. Item (contents of box); 4. Date of accession; 5. Shelf location; and 6. Restrictions and ownership. The work is being done by a student in the Goshen College Bible School, Edward J. Wiebe of Whitewater, Kansas. He is working under the direction of Harold S. Bender, Custodian of the Archives. He is well qualified for this work, knowing both English and German well.

Among the major items now donated to or loaned to the church archives are the following: John F. Funk papers; George Lambert material; Home and Foreign Relief Commission records; a vast amount of Mennonite Central Committee materials; S. D. Guengerich papers; Illinois Conference files; Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities files; Aaron Loucks and J. S. Hartzler material; J. D. Mininger correspondence; M. S. Steiner file; A. G. Clemmer material; J. C. Frey material; William A. Derstine file; and various items from the following: J. S. Hartzler, D. A. Lehman, Eli J. Bontrager, J. S. Shoemaker, J. W. Shank, David Plank, C. Z. Mast, John K. Yoder, John Horsch, J. D. Brunk, A. C. Kolb, and others.

The Historical Committee has set aside \$150.00 to pay for the services of a competent worker in the church archives during the current year. Further reports of his work will be published in the BULLETIN from time to time.

PREACHING APPOINTMENTS

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do not know now. This is only a plan by us poor mortals which is partly completed until the 23rd when the brethren separated at Brubakers.

I hope that the Lord has already blessed them. He will continue to reward the dear brethren and not leave their labors unrewarded, and the angel of the Lord will accompany them home safe so that they may meet their own in good health.

A hearty greeting to all the brethren and sisters as well as to all those seeking the Lord in and through Jesus Christ.

Martin Mellinger.

Oct. 23, 1813

On the 23rd Abraham Wismer's Meeting at Martin's Creek.

Ministers, Christian Good and Joseph Bauman, Deacon, Abraham Good.

24 Jacob Noll [Nold] at Gingerich's on the Quietobelefill [Quitophilia].

25 At Schneck's [Schenek's] on the Schwatera.

26 At Schnably of Gralten [Kraltown] Meeting house.

27 At Eby's on the Hammercreek.

28 At Hammercreek.

The Mennonite Historical Society of Goshen College

The annual business meeting of the society was held on September 23 in connection with the first program of the year. The society is now made up of the following: 12 corresponding members, 14 new student members, 12 hold-over student members, and 28 faculty members. The following were sustaining members, 1943-44: H. S. Bender, J. E. Brunk, J. Boyd Cressman, C. L. Graber, M. C. Habegger, Silas Hertzler, G. F. Hersherberger, Orie O. Miller, Nelson Springer, John Umble, J. C. Wenger, Edward Yoder, and S. C. Yoder.

The newly elected officers are: H. S. Bender, president; G. F. Hersherberger, vice president; John Umble, secretary; J. C. Wenger, treasurer; and S. C. Yoder, fifth member of executive committee.

At the first meeting Dr. J. Winfield Fretz of Akron, Pennsylvania, delivered an interesting and informing address on the Mennonite colonies in Mexico. His address was illustrated with colored slides which he had made on his recent visit with our brethren in the neighboring country to the south.

QUESTION BOX

When and how was part singing introduced to the Mennonites of the Franconia Conference?

The first book that was used in the Franconia Conference with musical notes was called the *Musselman Notes Book*. It was compiled by S. M. Musselman of Lower Salford, Montgomery County Pennsylvania, in 1844. It was composed of three-part singing: soprano, bass, and tenor. It was written in the old style scale of four tones, *mi, fa, sol, la*. The exact title of the book was *Die Neue Choral Harmonie, Enthaltend die Vornehmsten Kirchen Melodien, Eingereicht zum Gebrauche aller Christlichen Religionen von Jeden Benennungen und auf Drei Stimmen Gesetzt Absonderlich Eingereicht zum Öffentlichen Gottesdienste als Kirchen Versammlungen und Singeschulen*. This title would read in English, "The New Choral Harmony Containing the Principal Church Melodies arranged for the Use of All Christian Bodies of Whatever Denomination, and Set for Three Voices, Especially intended for Church Services and Singing Schools."

The next book used by the Mennonite people was one published by Thomas R. Weber of Hellertown, published in 1878. The title was: *Die Sonntags Schul Harmonie, eine Sammlung Drei und Vierstimmig Ausgeste Gesänge für Sonntagschulen, Wochen-schulen und Musikalischen Gesellschaften und für den Familien Gebrauch mit Deutschen und Englischen Texte* (The Sunday School Harmony, A Collection of Three-and Four-Part Songs for Sunday Schools, Day Schools, Musical Societies, and for Family Use, With German and English Texts.) This book was also published in the old style musical scale of four tones, although the eight-tone scale had been invented prior to its appearance. This *Harmony* was used in the Sunday school of the Franconia congregation, the first Sunday school of the district.

These two books were, I suppose, the means of introducing part singing into the congregations of the Franconia Conference.

Of opposition to part singing I can report only what Minister Henry M. Clemmer (1849-1936) of the Salford congregation told me. Clemmer remembered an occasion when the church leaders put a stop to part singing in his home congregation.

The eight-tone scale, known as Aikens' Seven Character Notes, was introduced into the Franconia area by J. B. Aikens who was the inventor and who had a copyright on the three additional notes: *do, re, and ti*. The addition of these three notes produced the present-day scale: *do, re, me, fa, sol, la, ti, do*. This scale contains two half-steps, while the former had but one. Aikens came into this community

in 1866, when he bought the farm later known as the Abraham S. Rosenberger farm, in Hatfield Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Aikens died as a poor man in 1890. He is buried at the Hatfield Brethren Church, but no marker is found at his grave.

Just when the eight-tone scale was invented, I do not know, but I have a book, published in 1853 by J. K. Collins of Philadelphia, which employed it. The title is, *Timbrel of Zion*. The music is in four parts. My father who was born in 1845 learned to sing by the new style scale, but his uncle Elihu Clemmer who was but two years his senior told me he learned to sing by the old style scale.

David K. Allebach
Hatfield, Pennsylvania

NEWS & NOTES

Mention was made in the last issue of the BULLETIN of the book *Menno Simons' Life and Writings*, by Harold S. Bender and John Horsch, which was first published in 1936 and has now been printed a second time. In this connection it is interesting to report that this book has been translated into the Spanish language under the title *Menno Simons, su Vida y Escritos*. It was published by the American Mennonite Mission at Trenque Lauquen, F.C.O., Argentina, in 1943. The translator of the work is Carmen Palomeque, a member of the Mennonite Church in Argentina. In the Spanish translation there are added a foreword by the translator, and at the end an appendix entitled *Un Poco de Historia (A Bit of History)*, being a thumbnail sketch of Mennonite history and its significance in general church history. The book has 154 pages of slightly smaller size than its English original. It is noteworthy as perhaps the first book on Mennonite history to be printed in Spanish. The Mennonite Mission in Argentina is to be congratulated on this fine and significant piece of work.

We reported also in the last number of the BULLETIN the action taken by the Historical Committee of Mennonite General Conference at its last meeting with reference to the urgent need for a new English edition of the complete works of Menno Simons. We are happy to report that the Mennonite Publication Board at its biennial meeting, held at Elkhart, Indiana, in August, 1944, authorized the publication of just such an edition. The Board took this action upon a recommendation made by its Publishing Committee, which apparently originated independently of the earlier action of the Historical Committee. These parallel actions emphasize the urgent need which exists for a new edition of the works of Menno Simons. It is hoped that the appearance of this work will not be long delayed.

The Martyr's Mirror has for a number of centuries been a leading work in Mennonite literature. There is still a steady demand for it on the book market, though unfortunately the English edition is now entirely out of stock. This book was originally written and published in Europe in the Dutch language. The large work of around a thousand pages was translated into German at Ephrata, Pa., and published there in 1748. The German edition was re-issued in 1814 at Lancaster, in 1849 at Philadelphia, in 1870 at Elkhart, and in 1915 at Scottsdale. Copies of this edition are said to be still obtainable.

The German *Martyrer Spiegel* mentioned above was first translated into English by I. Daniel Rupp and published in Lancaster County, Pa., in 1837. At Elkhart, Indiana, the work was newly translated from the original Dutch into English by Joseph F. Sohm and published in 1886. The Elkhart edition was re-issued at Scottsdale, Pa., in 1938. The latest publishers underestimated the possible demand for this centuries-old book and printed only 1,500 copies, thinking these would supply the demand for many years to come. Now in six years time the whole edition is exhausted and the demand still continues for the English *Martyr's Mirror*.

Various Mennonite writers have at times urged that Mennonite ministers and speakers draw more of their illustrations and historical allusions from the literature which represents our own rich spiritual heritage and depend less for quotations on works from outside and foreign sources. In order to do this Mennonite ministers and speakers must have free access to the older, standard works of Mennonite literature. This they cannot have, if the works are not constantly available for purchase. It appears, therefore that plans should be made for the reprinting of the English *Martyr's Mirror* at an early date.

The American-German Review is a bi-monthly magazine published by the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, 420 Chestnut St., Philadelphia 6, Pa. It contains occasional articles that relate to the Mennonites. In the issue of October, 1943, for example, appeared an article, "Their Sober Wishes," by Grace Wenger a member of the faculty at Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Va. The article presented considerable historical information on the origin and early history of the Mennonites. The whole was written in an interesting and popular, story style. The article was accompanied by three illustrations showing some "plain people" of Lancaster county.

An article on "The Harmonists and the Hutterians," by Karl J. Arndt, appeared in the same magazine of August, 1944. It gives the interesting account of some correspondence and financial transactions

carried on between the Harmonists, a communal group at New Harmony, near Pittsburgh, Pa., and the Hutterian colony, then of Bon Homme, Dakota Territory, from the years 1875 to 1892. Apparently the chief concern of the former of these groups at the time was to get loans of money from the latter.

The American-German Review of April, 1944, published an extended "Bibliography of Americana Germanica." The aim was to cite and present information concerning all the books and articles published in 1943 and pertaining in any way to Americans of German origin and background. A number of the major articles published in the *MENNONITE HISTORICAL BULLETIN* are listed in this bibliography.

Ira D. Landis, a member of the Historical Committee of Mennonite General Conference, and a frequent contributor to the *BULLETIN*, has begun a series of historical articles which are being published in the *Youth's Christian Companion*. The general title of these articles is "Mennonites in Lancaster County." They are illustrated and are interestingly written. The first articles of this series appeared in recent months, and their contents will be of interest to Mennonites everywhere, both in and out of Lancaster county.

Below we quote the pertinent paragraphs from the publishers' foreword to the Elkhart edition of the English *Martyrs Mirror* (1886). The words are still a challenge to Mennonites of this generation:

As the English language, year by year, becomes more prevalent among our Mennonite people, the necessity of presenting to them in that language the doctrines, teachings, and practices, as well as the story of the sufferings, the faithful endurance, and the final triumphant deaths of those of like faith with us who lived in the earlier ages of Christianity, becomes apparent to every reflecting mind.

These doctrines, teachings, and practices together with the examples of faithful devotion to Christ and His Word, and the unfaltering endurance under the severest persecution, are powerful incentives to Christians today, to inspire many sincere souls to live a more consecrated life, to practice greater self-denial, to live more separated from the world, and show a greater zeal in the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls; and they are especially precious to us, as Mennonites, because through these people it pleased God to hand down to us the living exemplification of the peculiar tenets and doctrines which we hold and practice at the present day.

The reading of books of this kind will also help us to appreciate more highly the privileges with which God has blessed us above our forefathers. While they oftentimes were not permitted to have per-

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Who's Who Among the Mennonites. Edited by A. Warkentin, assisted by Melvin Gingerich. Bethel College, Kansas: A. Warkentin, 1943. Pp. 428. Price. \$3.50.

This is a revision and an enlargement of a first edition edited by Dr. Warkentin and published by him in 1937. The information has been brought up to date except in cases where revised data could not be secured, and the number of entries has been increased from about five hundred to approximately one thousand. An attempt has been made to enter here representative men and women in the various branches of the Mennonite Church who have made significant contributions to their churches and communities. The representation is much more adequate than in the first edition, and there are now probably few important omissions. The editor of the first edition expressed the hope that readers would co-operate in making a future edition more complete. This hope in a large part has been realized.

The book contains a vast amount of information concerning contemporary Mennonites. As a reference work it is invaluable to all those who are interested in Mennonite affairs. Addresses, dates, positions, publications, and past history of Mennonite leaders are here available. As a source book for Mennonite historians the work will also be very valuable in future years. It is probable that this work will make such a place for itself as will demand new editions every five or six years.

The editors recognize that there is much room for improvement. There are, as is to be expected, some errors of fact. D. D. Miller is listed as the present Treasurer of the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities, although the entry for E. C. Bender reveals that he holds this office. Listed among the publications of J. B. Smith is *Verse by Verse Commentary on Revelation*. The publication date is given as 1943. So far as this reviewer is aware, this book has not yet been published. Possibly the entry was made as an expectation of the author which for some reason was not realized.

One of the great limitations of the work is its uneven quality. The source of information for each entry was the person being treated. Some give much more detailed information than others. Serving on the program committee of a literary society is probably a significant community service, but entering such minute activities greatly extends the length of one's entry. For this reason some important church leaders have much less space than do some rather minor community leaders. A reference work should be objective and relatively uniform in the kind and amount of information given. There seems to be

here, however, a good deal of subjective evaluation. It would seem that the editorial blue pencil could have been more freely used.

Another detail that seems rather subjective and vague is the matter of church membership. Although primarily a listing of Mennonites this work includes some people of Mennonite background now affiliated with other churches, but who, say the editors, "are still in sympathy with Mennonite principles." That is obviously a rather vague and subjective judgment. Again and again throughout the work men, chiefly professional men, are listed as belonging to one or the other of various Mennonite branches with the additional information, "now affiliated with the ——— church." Church membership becomes a rather elusive thing when one is a member of one church and affiliated with another. This would seem to involve fundamental contradictions when the subject is an important ecclesiastical official in another church. Is there such a thing as overlapping church membership? A few men who are obviously ex-Mennonites are listed as members of the Amish Mennonite Church when the reference is clearly to neither of the two bodies which can officially be called Amish Mennonite today. There should be no anachronisms in a work of reference. It would seem to be more accurate, as was done in a few cases, to give the present church membership with the addition, "formerly ——— Mennonite."

An interesting section of the book which one wishes could be extended is a series of pictures of Mennonite institutions. The classified directory of Mennonite business firms is so obviously incomplete as to be of limited value. A careful cross checking with the entries in the main section would have added some names to this directory. Valuable also are the lists of Mennonite mission stations, periodicals, and schools.

In spite of its limitations, this work is a panorama of Mennonite life unequalled in our literature. It is worth a day's browsing and frequent reference thereafter.

—Paul Erb.

Die älteste Chronik der Hutterischen Brüder: Ein Sprachdenkmal aus frühneuhochdeutscher Zeit, Herausgegeben von A. J. F. ZIEGLSCHMID, Northwestern University, Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation, pp. lxix + 1037, [1943], \$10.00.

The Hutterian Brethren who trace their history back to the year 1528 differ from Mennonites mainly by holding to a Christian community of goods and by objecting to the private ownership of property. On most other points of theology and practice they agree with those holding to Swiss Brethren principles. In contrast with the Swiss Brethren, however, the Hutterian Brethren have ever been minded to keep some record of their church life.

"The Oldest Chronicle of the Hutterian Brethren," as the German title of our book runs, covers the life of the group up

to the year 1665. The present volume gives us a letter-true copy of the *Chronicle*, copied directly from the original volume in the possession of the Hutterian *Bruderhof* (colony) in Tabor, South Dakota. The *Chronicle* was copied letter by letter, "at snail's pace," and the copy verified no less than six times. It is therefore extremely reliable in both form and content. The gigantic task of copying the original, and of preparing the manuscript for the press, as well as adding all sorts of helpful notes and aids, was done by a noted specialist in the field of German Language, Professor A. J. F. Zieglschmid of Northwestern University. Mennonite historians are deeply indebted to Professor Zieglschmid for his splendid contribution to the sources of Anabaptist life and theology.

Some readers of the BULLETIN will not be able to make use of the Hutterian *Chronicle* because of its German form, but all Mennonites ought to know of the appearance of this most significant work. Let our scholars now begin to work this mine!

W.

Clinton Frame Sketches by RAYMOND MARK YODER, Herald Press; Scottdale, Pennsylvania, 1944, pp. 106, \$0.50.

Four main parts comprise the latest book from the pen of Raymond M. Yoder, pastor of the Mennonite Home Mission Church, Chicago. Part I, written by Delton S. Schrock, is a good history of the Clinton Frame Mennonite congregation, near Goshen, Indiana. Parts II, III, and IV, all by Raymond Yoder, consist respectively of the Sunday School history, the Sisters' Missionary Association, and the Story of the Life of Daniel J. Johns. Part IV takes up almost two-thirds of the entire book.

The book is well written and combines a readable style with much valuable information. The author is very intimate in places, recording details of the home and family life of the chief subject, D. J. Johns (1850-1942) whose life span nearly covered the history of the congregation. Johns was ordained to the ministry in 1882 and as bishop in 1887. He served his church long and well and was a leading spirit in the progressive movements in the church as a whole.

It is work like that of Schrock and Yoder which the general historian must build on. How fine it would be if each of the congregations in the Mennonite Church would have local historians to produce similar books.

W.

Stories My Father Told Us by EDITH WENGER MORGAN Privately Printed; n.d. (c. 1943).

In a delightful little book of forty pages Edith (Mrs. Earl) Morgan of Rubio, Iowa, has written an autobiographical sketch of her father, the late Solomon B. Wenger of South English, Iowa. S. B. Wenger was born in Virginia in 1857. He therefore remembered the Civil War days as a small child: the con-

sternation among the adults of John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry and the various experiences with soldiers during the war years. Much of the book consists of a series of personal anecdotes and reminiscences which S.B. would tell his children for their entertainment. These stories are well written and are full of human interest. The historical value of the book lies in its allusions to such things as the construction of houses in Virginia a century ago; the stoves which warmed the houses of that era; the attitude of Wenger's family toward secession; the clothing worn by his mother; the customs of a century ago in cooking, house furnishings, and the like. But the average reader will read the book with keen enjoyment without pausing too much to reflect on the changes in customs which it reflects. It should be added that the subject of the sketch was an older brother of A. D. Wenger, the late Mennonite evangelist and president of Eastern Mennonite School, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

W.

NEWS AND NOTES

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manent places of abode, and were driven about and hunted down like wild beasts, compelled to dwell in caves and mountains, and other secluded places, hold their meetings in secret, and suffer every imaginable form of injustice and persecution, because to be a true follower of Christ in those days was considered the very worst of crimes, we enjoy all the privileges of citizenship and are protected in the fullest enjoyment of our religion and forms of worship.

It is the duty of the Church to maintain and teach the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ and to transmit the same to coming generations, and as we contemplate these facts, what a glorious treasure of pure Christian devotion shines in these pages of the Story of the Martyrs, and how much this grand record of their sufferings has done, and may yet do to perpetuate the pure doctrines of the Gospel, eternity alone will reveal.

Become a Regular Reader of the Bulletin

If the Bulletin does not come to your address at present, we invite you to send in the fee of one dollar a year for regular membership in the Mennonite Historical Association. The Historical Bulletin is sent regularly to all who enroll as members in this Association, which is sponsored by the Historical Committee of Mennonite General Conference. Send your membership application and dues to the treasurer, Edward Yoder, Scottdale, Pennsylvania.

